

REFERENCE XMVE02
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACT
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
Western Ecology Division, Corvallis , OR

The Western Ecology Division (WED) of the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL), Office of Research and Development (ORD) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking a college student to provide services under a contractual agreement to assist with plant toxicology studies. Contractors must be at least 18 years of age, completed a B.S. degree in biology, botany, ecology, environmental science, horticulture or related field and be enrolled as a graduate student in an accredited college/university. The student must be familiar with basic laboratory/field health and safety.

The Western Ecology Division (WED) is one of four ecological effects divisions of the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory. The four divisions are distributed bio-geographically. WED's mission is 1) to provide EPA with national scientific leadership for terrestrial and regional-scale ecology, and 2) to develop the scientific basis for assessing the condition and response of ecological resources of the western United States and the Pacific Coast. For additional information regarding the Western Ecology Division, visit its home page at <http://www.epa.gov/wed/>.

The student contractor will assist in the collecting, growing and harvesting of native and agricultural plant species. Some plants will be exposed to low rates (below standard field rates) of herbicides. The student contractor will assist in the assessment of plant responses and will document aspects of these activities in lab notebooks and electronic formats. All necessary instructions and training will be provided by Dr. Thomas Pfleeger (pfleeger.thomas@epa.gov) who will also serve as the student mentor.

The initial contract will be for 12 months (starting on or about March 15, 2004 - March 14, 2005) with an option for an additional 12 months (March 15, 2005 - March 14, 2006 - based on the commencement date of the original contract). Exercising the optional 12 month period will be at the discretion of the Government. It is anticipated that the student will work 20 hours per week with the majority of the work being Monday through Friday of each week. The duty location is Western Ecology Division, 200 SW 35th St Corvallis, OR 97333. Work will be performed under a variety of settings including office, library, laboratory/greenhouse and field. The work is not particularly hazardous or physically strenuous; field and laboratory health and safety training will be provided.

Student contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. EPA will provide travel expenses from the principal duty station to field sites if required as part of the job.

The hourly rate of \$13.24 is commensurate with the level of education and experience necessary for this position. Student contractors will be paid the basic hourly rate only for the number of hours worked. Student contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. Federal, State and Social Security taxes will not be withheld; student contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes.

Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration (BCIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

To apply for this opportunity you must provide a one or two page resume or a statement of qualifications including (1) student's full legal name; (2) mailing address; (3) telephone number; (4) e-mail address (if any); (5) date of birth; (6) social security number; (7) place of birth; (8) citizenship or, if not a US citizen, immigration/VISA status; (9) education, including description of relevant classes; (10) work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field; and (11) laboratory/field experience. Attach a copy of your most recent transcript, listing courses taken, grades and overall GPA.

Send your resume or statement of qualifications to : Western Ecology Division, Attn: Connie M. Hays, 200 SW 35th St, Corvallis, OR 97333 or fax (541) 754-4518. The application deadline will be listed at the website shown below.

Prior to applying for this position, you should visit the EPA procurement home page at http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd/ to learn full details of the position for which you are applying. Under the section entitled "Student Services", with the applicable announcement number (XMVE02), read all of the attached documents. You should visit the website periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any changes have been made to the position. If you have any questions on the information contained in this website, please contact the EPA Contract Specialist, Ardra Morgan-Kelly (morgan-kelly.ardra@epa.gov).

The Government will make contract awards based on the student's work experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work as it relates to the services described in the announcement. Evaluation factors will be listed in the website mentioned above. Please check the evaluation factors document on the website given above. Students who perform under contract for EPA are required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the EPA.

Questions regarding this student contract should be directed to Connie Hays, the Western Ecology Division Acquisition Program Manager, at hays.connie@epa.gov or (541) 754-4504. Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to Dr. Thomas Pfleeger, the EPA technical mentor for the contracted activities, at pfleeger.thomas@epa.gov or (541) 754-4374.